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dense puberulus insuper subsericeus, limbus 12 mm. in diam. *Bacca* ellipsoidea puberula 1·8 cm. × 1·1 cm. calycis lobis deciduis nec coronata.

Angola: Kaconda, along the rivulet Cababa, February 27th, 1907, *Gossweiler* 4284!

A rare woody climber, attaining a height of 25 ft.; leaves soft and glossy above; petaloid calyx-lobes yellowish-white; corolla-tube greenish. Allied to *M. Afzelii*, but the corolla of our species is much more slender, and longer; also to *M. Isertiana*, but the last-named has much shorter and broader, obtuse calyx-lobes.

JOHN FLEMING, M.D. (1747–1829).

BY JAMES BRITTEN, F.L.S.

IN the course of revising our *Biographical Index of British and Irish Botanists*, the entry for Dr. John Fleming arrested our attention. The information regarding him given in our first edition is practically based entirely on Dr. Daydon Jackson's account in the *Dictionary of National Biography* (xix, 279), but a reference to the obituary notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine* (lxxxv, i, 568) from which that account is largely taken, contains no mention of Fleming's botanical attainments. Further investigation has shown that under the heading "John Fleming, botanist," two widely different persons are combined—one having a claim to that title, the other (who in *Gent. Mag.* is only designated "J.") a scholar who never published any work, but contributed largely on classical subjects to journals published in London. In order that the two men may be separated, I reprint the notice from D.N.B., placing in italics the portion which relates to the scholar:—

"FLEMING, JOHN (D. 1815), botanist, *was educated at Douai, took his degree of M.D. at Edinburgh, and became president of the Bengal Medical Service. He is stated to have been a good classic, and contributed to several journals, but the only memoir of his which can be cited is his 'Catalogue of Indian Medicinal Plants and Drugs' in the eleventh volume of 'Asiatick Researches,' which was reprinted with additions, Calcutta, 1810, 8vo, and translated into Dutch and German. He died of a paralytic stroke in London, 10 May, 1815. Dr. Roxburgh dedicated the genus *Flemingia* to him, [and his name is further commemorated by the genus of fossil plants, *Flemingites*]."*

" [*Gent. Mag. vol. lxxxv pt. i, p. 568; Roxburgh's Corom. Pl. iii, 44*]."

The sentence placed in brackets relates to yet a third person—John Fleming, D.D., of Edinburgh (1785–1857), in whose honour Mr. Carruthers, who had studied under him, named *Flemingites*.

For this composite paragraph the following account of John Fleming, M.D., condensed from Lieut.-Col. D. G. Crawford's

History of the Indian Medical Service, 1600-1913 (1914), may profitably be substituted:

"John Fleming was born in 1747, and entered the I.M.S. as Assistant Surgeon, Bengal, on 17th Aug., 1768, becoming Surgeon on 11th Dec., 1771, and, on the establishment of the Medical Board on 25th May, 1786, junior Member of the Board, instances of very rapid promotion. He became President of the Board on 8th Dec., 1800, and held that post, with an interval of furlough from 24th Dec., 1802 to 31st July, 1805, until 17th Dec., 1811, when he again took furlough to England. He retired on 10th Nov., 1813, after 45 years' service, for twenty-seven years of which he had been a Member of the Board. In 1818 he was elected M.P. for Gatton, a pocket borough disfranchised in 1832, but only retained his seat for two years, till 1820, when he did not stand again. He died in London on 17th May, 1829." (ii, 161.)

It may be worth while to bring together the scanty details which I have been able to find relating to the scientific attainments of the author of the *Catalogue of Indian Medicinal Plants*. It is scarcely accurate to describe him as if he were only interested in plants, as a letter addressed from Calcutta, November 11th, 1797, to Sir Joseph Banks relates to "a Thibet Musk," of which he was sending a living specimen: in this he describes himself as "a lover of Natural History." The *Catalogue*, as already stated, is dated from Calcutta, 1810 (*Asiatick Researches*, xi, 153-196); the re-issue (same date and place) was "printed separate (with emendations and some additions) for the convenience of those for whose use chiefly it was compiled"; it is an octavo volume of 72 pages, and has an index and an appendix relating to "the efficacy of the bark of the root of the Pomegranate tree as a remedy for the tape-worm."

In India Fleming was a friend of Francis Buchanan (afterwards Hamilton: 1762-1829) and Thomas Hardwicke (1757-1835). The former writes of him to Smith, March 3rd, 1802, as "my good friend Mr. Fleming, a very great encourager and promotor of natural history: you will find him a frank, pleasant, and learned man, with a greater knowledge of man and manners than usual. At a later date (November 4th, 1807) Hardwicke writes from Calcutta: "Mr. Fleming and myself have often indulged in conversation about you: he has a great desire to be better known to you, but how soon he may have that opportunity I am not in a position to say. He is here in the full enjoyment of health and all the ease and luxury a man can wish for; consequently he is very indifferent about leaving the country" (*Correspondence of J. E. Smith*, ii, 88, 120).

On his return to England, Fleming settled in London: a memorandum in the autograph collection of the Department of Botany, relating to the collection of drawings hereinafter mentioned, is dated from Chandos Street, Grosvenor Square, Sept. 24, 1812; he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1813, and of the Linnean Society on January 16th, 1816, at which time he was residing at Gloucester Place. Fleming was also a Fellow of

the Royal Society of Edinburgh and of the Horticultural Society, and a member of the Asiatick Society.

Fleming, "whose knowledge of the science of Botany justly demands this tribute," is commemorated by Roxburgh in the genus *Flemingia*, published in his *Plants of Coromandel*, iii, 44 (1819). It would appear from Wallich's *List* (nn. 4361, 4364) that Roxburgh had in his herbarium given the name to *Canscora diffusa*. The publication of the genus, however, dates from Aiton's *Hort. Kew.* ed. 2, iv, 349 (1812), where it stands as "*Flemingia*. Roxb. Corom. 3," and is followed by the description of six species, five of which are similarly referred. Only two of these, however, were actually described in the *Plants of Coromandel*. and there with English descriptions only, the diagnoses in *Hort. Kew.* being in Latin: all are in *Flora Indica* iii, 337-342. The genus does not appear in the Solander MSS. on which *Hort. Kew.* is so largely based; it seems likely that the descriptions were supplied from Roxburgh's MSS. by Robert Brown, who was largely responsible for the *Leguminosæ* in the second edition of that work.* It may be noted that one of the species (*l. c.* 338) is described as "*F. prostrata* Roxb. Jun.": this seems to indicate that it was added by James Roxburgh, who wrote the preface to the volume, though I was not previously aware that either he or his brother John, who may possibly be intended, had published species.

Roxburgh was intimately acquainted with Fleming, as is shown by the memorandum already quoted, which I think bears some relation to the large collection of Indian drawings formed by the latter. This collection is now incorporated in the arranged series of plates in the Department of Botany, by which it was purchased in 1882: it was then in thirteen folio volumes. The drawings are mainly by native artists and include copies of many of the plates in the *Plants of Coromandel*, which were probably made from the originals for that work.† They are named by Fleming, sometimes on the back; localities are sometimes added taken apparently from published descriptions. I find in my notes a statement that Fleming collected in the Punjaub which is probably correct, though I cannot find a reference for it: apart from this I have no knowledge of him as a collector.

BOTANICAL RESEARCH.

DR. RENDLE'S Presidential Address to the Botanical Section of the British Association at Newcastle was mainly occupied with considerations as to the course of action to be taken after the war. He pleaded for the closer relation of botany with agriculture and

* See "History of Aiton's 'Hortus Kewensis'" (*Journ. Bot.* 1912, Supp. iii, p. 7).

† On this point reference may be made to my paper on Hardwicke's Botanical Drawings in *Journ. Bot.* 1906, 238, whence some of the above information is taken.